Gc
976.701
W27l
1412819

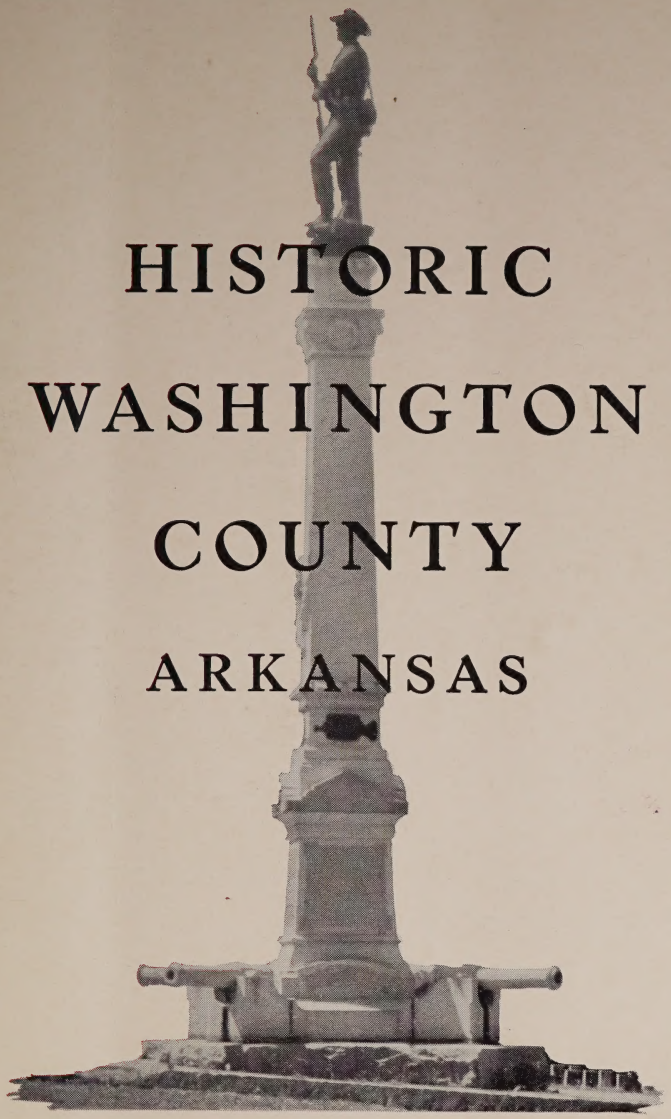
M. L

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01712 8841

HISTORIC WASHINGTON COUNTY

ARKANSAS



HISTORIC WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Photographs and Text

by

W. J. LEMKE

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
FORT WAYNE & ALLEN CO., IND.

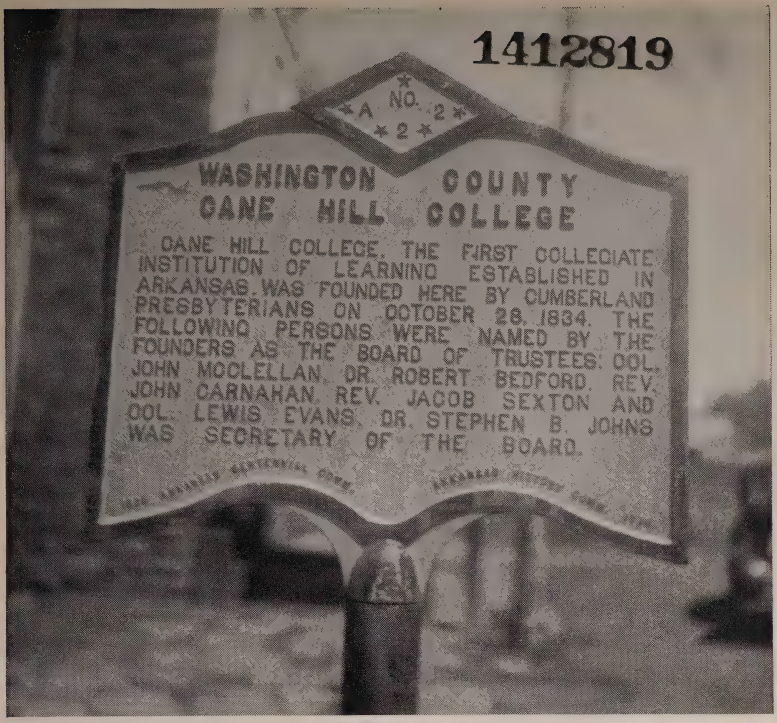
Published by

the Washington County

Historical Society

Washington County

Washington County, originally the home of prehistoric Indians known as Bluff Dwellers, became Cherokee territory through the treaty of 1817. There were occasional invasions by the war-like Osages. In 1827 the Arkansas territorial legislature created Lovely County (named for Maj. William L. Lovely, agent to the Cherokees) and several hundred white families moved in. The county seat was Nicksville, in what is now Sequoyah County, Oklahoma. In 1828 the present western boundary of Arkansas was established and the new treaty with the Cherokees moved the line 40 miles east of Lovely County's old boundary, to where it now is. On October 17, 1828, the Arkansas Legislature created Washington County, thus wiping out Lovely County. Fayetteville, not yet in existence, was designated as the site for the county seat. There was an immediate influx of settlers. Communities grew up at Cane Hill, Cincinnati, in the Prairie Grove valley and in the White River country. County officers were elected and a log courthouse built in Fayetteville.



Cane Hill

Cane Hill is one of our county's most romantic spots. Not only was it one of the first settlements after Lovely County was formed in 1827, but it also witnessed the establishment of the state's first college. It had several of our county's early mills. It was the site of a Civil War battle on November 28, 1862. It had a noted early-day pottery. It was the center of Cumberland Presbyterian activities from the very earliest times—an influence that spread all over the country. The first Sunday School in Arkansas was established here in 1828. Cane Hill College, twice destroyed by fire and twice re-built, made this community the cultural center of a wide area. The names of its residents were important in ante-bellum days—names like Buchanan, Carnahan, McClellan, Bean, Pyeatt, Mitchell, Earle and others.

Cane Hill, which once boasted newspapers, hotels, mills, colleges, a Masonic lodge and a bank, now lives on memories. But it offers attractions that no Arkansawyer should miss. In the center of the village is the marker erected by the Arkansas Centennial Commission

in commemoration of old Cane Hill College. The campus was atop the hill a hundred yards to the west. A walk down Jordan Creek will bring the visitor to the ruins of the old mill— its 34-foot overshot wheel still mounted on masonry that should stand another century—and to the lovely waterfall and the old kilns where the Wilburs made their pottery—the famous Boonsboro ware.

Cane Hill College was organized in 1834 and opened its doors to students in April 1835. In 1852 it obtained a charter from the state and a brick building was erected. In 1859 the Rev. F. R. Earle became president and the first degrees were conferred. The college was burned in 1864, but classes continued in a boarding house until 1868 when a new college building was erected. It too was destroyed by fire. A new brick building was erected in 1886 but three years later the college closed permanently. During its half century of existence Cane Hill College had trained hundreds of men who achieved high position and renown as ministers, educators, scientists and editors.

Cane Hill also had a girls' school a century ago. At Clyde, just south of Cane Hill, there is a marker that says: "Cane Hill Female Seminary 1852." A Cumberland Presbyterian church was organized in 1828. The first place of worship was a log house, which was used until the famous old "White Church" was built in 1858. Many other Cumberland Presbyetrian churches in Washington County were established by pioneer Cane Hill preachers, notably the Carnahans and Buchanans.

Several of our county's earliest mills were built at or near Cane Hill. Tradition says that Peter Pyeatt built the first water mill on

Bush Creek in 1829. Three years later Thomas Garvin had a water mill just south of the village and in 1840 John Truesdale built a steam mill. Kidd's Mill and Pierson's Mill, both with large mill ponds, were in operation in 1860 and were objectives of both Southern and Northern armies. After the War, in 1866, Pyeatt & Moon operated a mill with a capacity of 40 barrels of flour a day.

Cane Hill has undergone several changes of name. When the first postoffice was established in 1830, it was Cane Hill. In 1839 and for years thereafter, it was Steam Mill. In 1843 the village and postoffice became Boonsborough or Boonsboro, a name that was kept for nearly a half century.

Cane Hill's first newspaper, the Bugle, was established in 1886, but the later Cane Hill News was more widely known. One issue of a unique newspaper printed here in 1862, when several printers who were members of the 11th Kansas Infantry found a press and type that had been stored in Cane Hill by a missionary to the Cherokees, and used it to print 1,500 copies of a 4-page paper called "Buck and Ball."

Wilber's Pottery, located on Jordan Creek just south of town, attained considerable fame for its fine Boonesboro ware. Ruins of the old kilns can still be seen.

Since nearly all the Cane Hill pioneers of 1827 and 1828 had come from other southern states, it was natural that they should cast their lot with the Confederacy when war came. One of the first Washington County units was organized at Cane Hill in 1861—Company H of the 15th Arkansas Mounted Infantry.

When the 34th (Brooks') Regiment was formed in 1862, most of the Cane Hill men were in that regiment.

In November 1862 Cane Hill found itself a battlefield. Marmaduke's Confederate troops moved up Cove Creek and across to Cane Hill and established their battle-line just north of the village, prepared to meet Blunt's Federal troops marching south from Rhea's Mills. The battle of Cane Hill was fought November 28, 1862. Marmaduke withdrew south to Morrow, but returned a week later as part of Hindman's army enroute to the battle of Prairie Grove. After that bloody battle, Cane Hill became one large hospital, with the wounded occupying churches and homes.

There are many interesting old graveyards in and near Cane Hill, and the dust of three soldiers of the American Revolution reposes here: Capt. Jacob Pyeatt (1756-1844), Lt. John Carnahan (1756-1840) and Thomas Garvin (1764-1834).

Many pioneers are buried in the McClellan cemetery, which has a number of fine old burial vaults of the 1840's. Here are Col. John McClellan (1768-1842) and Col. M. W. McClellan (1795-1871), soldiers in the War of 1812. Here also are found such pioneer names as McClure, Samuel, Braly, Welch, Blackburn and others.

The Kidd family graveyard contains members of the pioneer miller's family, and the Parks burial ground has the grave of Mark Bean (1794-1862), early salt maker and miller who represented the county

in the state legislature. The pioneer Reeds sleep in the Cox cemetery a few miles south and the Edmistons at Morrow.

In the Cane Hill village cemetery are found the early members of the Buchanan clan, headed by Thomas Buchanan (1776-1836). An unusual triple tombstone marks the graves of three Buchanan brothers —William, Pleasant, James—Confederate soldiers all, who died together on February 21, 1864.

Here also is the grave of William G. Hagood, whose tombstone says: "Came with a band of pioneers to Cane Hill 1827. Died 1828." His was probably one of our county's first burials.

In the Cane Hill cemetery are many members of such pioneer families as Pyeatt, Carnahan, Yates, McCulloch, Ross, Wright, Bates and Moore.

Besides its romantic history, Cane Hill has outstanding scenic attractions for the visitor. The first settlers built their homes atop the bluffs which line both sides of the road. From the high places, impressive vistas of the rolling countryside can be had. The springs and creeks are a constant delight. The water still flows over the old mill dam but the big wheel in the gorge turns no more.

Graves of the Pioneer Buchanans in the Cane Hill Cemetery.

Prairie Grove

Prairie Grove history dates back to the very beginning of Washington County, although it is best known for the important battle fought here on December 7, 1862, between General Tom Hindman's Confederate army and the Union troops commanded by Generals Blunt and Herron.

Battlefield Park, which is maintained by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, is on the northeast edge of town. It marks the approximate center of the Confederate position on the afternoon of the battle. This park was for half a century the site of an annual reunion of Confederate veterans, attended at first by hundreds of men who had worn the Gray but discontinued when death had summoned the last man who carried a rifle in the battle of Prairie Grove.

Briefly, the story of the battle is this: after a preliminary skirmish at Cane Hill, Hindman marched his army north to intercept Herron, who was making a hundred-mile forced march from Missouri, via Fayetteville, in answer to Blunt's call for help. The Confederate cavalry under Marmaduke stopped Herron's advance at Illinois Creek, just north of Battlefield Park. The resulting battle was a stalemate until Blunt arrived in the afternoon from Rhea's Mills, when the fighting was resumed with increased intensity. The contending forces suffered 2,508 casualties on that bloody Sunday. After the battle the Confederate forces withdrew to Van Buren.

Prairie Grove's 121-year-old cemetery with Uncle Buck's tomb in the left foreground.

In Battlefield Park there is a monument bearing two bronze plaques, one placed by the UDC "in loving memory of Prairie Grove Camp 384, United Confederate Veterans," and the other, placed by the Children of the Confederacy, "in commemoration of the valor, sacrifice and fortitude of the youth of Arkansas in the Confederacy, 1861-1865."

On Prairie Grove's main street, at the western edge of town, is the Presbyterian church, built on the site of an earlier church that served as a hospital during the battle. An historical marker stands on the corner.

In the cemetery behind this church rest some of the earliest comers to Washington County, including the sainted "Uncle Buck"—the Rev. Andrew Buchanan, who built the first church and school here and who preached the length and breadth of the county in pioneer days. His handsome burial vault, and the many other century-old tombstones, merit a visit from every lover of Arkansas history.

There is a tall shaft that marks the grave of Col. James P. Neal, a "Veteran of the Mexican War and the Founder of the Town of Prairie Grove." Here also are found such pioneer names as Crawford, Patton, Rogers, Shafer, Ferguson, Moore, Mock, West, Cummings, McCormick, Morton, Polson, Marrs, and many others. Here also is a memorial marker inscribed: "Percilla Inman, died in the Springtime 1831. First grave in Prairie Grove."

Evansville

In 1827 John Conner, a native Georgian then living in Illinois, in partnership with several other families, built a keel-boat and set out for Arkansas. When they reached Evansville, they found several families living there, among them the McGarrahs, Shannons, Alexanders and Simpsons. These families had been ordered off the Cherokee lands and a command of soldiers from Fort Gibson had been sent in August 1826 to force them to move. However, they remained, and the Cherokee treaty of 1828 gave them the right of settlement.

It therefore seems probable that Evansville was our county's first white settlement. The town was named for Capt. Lewis Evans, an Evansville storekeeper, miller, postmaster, and the first sheriff of Washington County. After 1828 immigration was rapid and Evansville became the trade center of a large area. Its early-day mills furnished lumber and meal for much of the western part of the county.

Evansville was between hostile armies during the Civil War and early in the war was occupied by Gen. Stand Watie's Cherokee Confederate troops. After the war there was much lawlessness on the border and the Shannon-Fisher feud brought Evansville considerable notoriety. However, the town soon regained its commercial importance, boasting two steam saw and grist mills and a cotton gin. It had a well-known school in Evansville Academy, several lodges and a newspaper. The Academy has vanished but a later stone building that housed the school and lodge hall is still standing. It is shown in the accompanying picture.

Rhea's Mills

Rhea's Mills, five miles northwest of Prairie Grove, gets its name from the grist and lumber mills built here in pioneer days by the Rhea family. The first mills were on the spring branch. About 1852 a large steam mill was erected, of which the huge stone stack can still be seen. The present mill was built much later.

Pleasant V. Rhea and his family came to this section from Tennessee about 1829 and built a log cabin that was said to have been "the farthest one west inhabited by a white man." His son, William H. Rhea, prospered as a merchant at Cincinnati and Rhea's Mills. He married the daughter of a pioneer physician, Dr. Samuel D. Powell.

Because of the mills, Rhea's became an object of contention during the War Between the States. This was the camp of General Blunt's Federal army before the battle of Prairie Grove, and it was from Rhea's Mills that Blunt marched to Herron's aid on the afternoon of December 7, 1862.

The mill, several old homes, and the cemetery give Rhea's Mills an aura of romance. In the cemetery are buried the Rheas and Powells and other pioneer families, including the Wassums, Pierces, Hartleys, Allens and others. The peaceful valley gives no hint of the bustling activity of a century ago or of the violence of war. But the memories are there—and the old mill.

Dutch Mills

Behind the picturesque hilltop church shown in the picture is the Dutch Mills cemetery, where sleep some of the pioneers who came to the western part of the county in early days. Among them are members of these old families: Kimbrough, English, Goddard, Sparks, Seay, Whitaker and Harrison. A granite marker at the cemetery entrance bears this statement: "Given by Lewis Weber for public burying ground. Known as John N. Weber plot since 1860. First grave during Civil War."

Dutch Mills was originally Hermannsburgh. It was settled in 1852 by a colony of German immigrants led by two Hermann brothers. These Germans, possibly a hundred or more, left their native land because of political oppression and came to the Arkansas-Indian Territory border seeking freedom and independence. They were industrious and educated people—the Hermann brothers being graduates of German universities.

They named their new settlement in Washington County Hermannsburgh and secured a postoffice under that name in 1853. John H. Hermann was postmaster in 1856 and Frederick C. Hermann in 1859. They established a flour mill, lumber mill and woolen mill and carried on a profitable trade with the Indians just across the line. The breaking-out of the Civil War ruined their business, and because they were Northern sympathizers, they were compelled to flee. They never came back. When Dutch Mills became a postoffice in 1871, the post-war residents named the village for the earlier German settlers.

Mt. Comfort

The Mt. Comfort community, three miles northwest of Fayetteville, was settled soon after the organization of Washington County, but it was not until a school was opened there in 1835 that the settlement attracted attention. This school was called the Far West Seminary. It was intended to be the first college in Arkansas and was incorporated in 1844. A preparatory school was planned, to be called Ozark Institute. The head of this ambitious educational project was Rev. Robert Mecklin.

A building for Far West Seminary was begun but it burned in February 1845. The Reverend Mecklin then opened Ozark Institute on May 19, 1845. The school attracted wide attention and soon had more than a hundred students. It was a male seminary, but a Miss James opened an academy for young ladies at Mt. Comfort that also enjoyed success.

The war stopped further educational progress. Mt. Comfort became a military camp and Company F of the 34th Arkansas Infantry CSA was organized here in July 1862. Ozark Institute was revived after the War and carried on until 1871. The school had a 2-story brick building and a dormitory. A granite marker about a mile east of Mt. Comfort marks the site.

Because of the prominence of this community in ante-bellum days, many families of note moved here and the Mt. Comfort cemetery is a veritable Who's Who of the county's early days. Here are found such pioneer names as Rieff, Carnahan, Pittman, Dickson, Washington, Appleby, Skelton, Reagan, Dean and Cook.

Elm Springs

Land entries of 1831 reveal that there were settlers in the Elm Springs vicinity shortly after the creation of Washington County. The first land entry on the present site of the village was made by John Ingram in 1840. There are a number of springs here, and it was no doubt the springs that induced Ingram to build a water mill in 1844. Since that early day, Elm Springs has had a number of mills and traces of the mill-races and ponds can still be seen, and Elm Springs and Deaver's Spring and Brush Creek still run as copiously as they did a century ago. The accompanying picture shows the Elm Springs on the Steele place for which the village was named.

The man chiefly responsible for the ante-bellum growth and prominence of Elm Springs was William Barrington, who came in the early 1840's, secured the establishment of a postoffice in 1848, and died in 1853. His grave in the Elm Springs cemetery is marked with an attractive old tombstone. Barrington, at one time, owned most of the land that comprises the village. One of his last acts before his death was to donate the site of the Elm Springs Male and Female Academy. It was Barrington who opened the first store and who gave the name Elm Springs to the settlement. He was also the first postmaster. Other early postmasters were Deaver, Sherman, Steele, Ritter and Webster.

The Elm Springs Male and Female Academy, widely and favorably known in ante-bellum days, was founded in 1849 by the Reverend and

Mrs. Jesse McAllister. He taught 60 boys in the Male school; his wife taught 40 girls, many of them from the Indian Territory, just a short distance to the west. The Academy was revived after the War by the Rev. W. W. Lundy and had over a hundred pupils in 1888.

A Methodist church was organized at Elm Springs in the early 1830's by the Rev. H. G. Joplin. A church was built in 1850, destroyed during the War, and another built in 1866. Elm Springs had a Masonic Lodge at an early date.

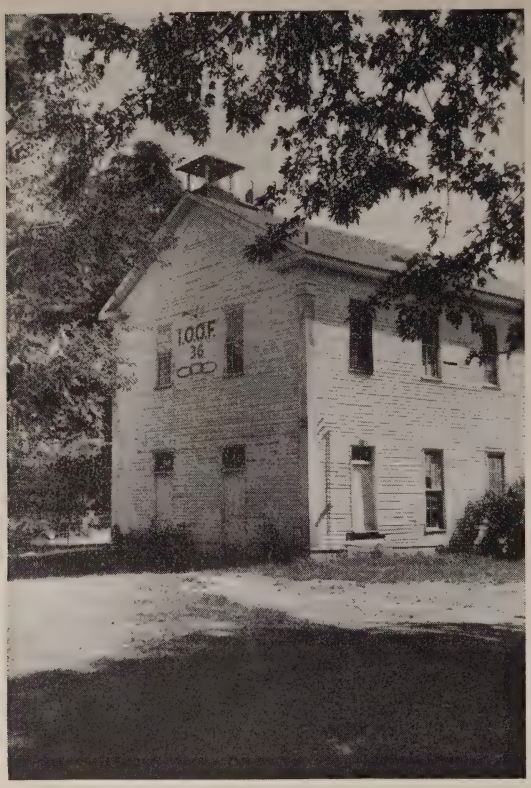
The mills drew business to Elm Springs from miles around and during the War were one of the objectives of the contending armies. The numerous springs also made the area a good camping ground for troops. General Earl VanDorn's Confederate army rendezvoused here before the battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862. It was from Elm Springs that Generals McIntosh and McCulloch rode to their death at Elkhorn Tavern.

The campground of the army was the campus of the Academy. It can be seen in the background in the accompanying picture, just west of the cemetery. In this historic burying-ground sleep the founder of Elm Springs, William Barrington, and such pioneer families as Deaver, Ritter, Greathouse, Cox, Sherman, Delozier, Blake, Norman, Barnett, Woodruff, Hembree and Wager.

Elm Springs Cemetery
with old academy campus in background

Springdale

The beginning of Springdale dates back to 1840 when Rev. John Holcombe and William D. Quinton came to Washington County, Arkansas, from the Spoon River Association in Illinois. Quinton located on an 80-acre tract where Springdale now is. Holcombe homesteaded near West Fork. Two years later they exchanged homesteads. In 1843 the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church was built and the Reverend Holcombe became its pastor.



In 1868 Rev. John Holcombe laid out the original town of Shiloh, bounded by North, Shiloh, Johnson and Mill streets. The business section was built around a square where the Public Library is now located. One of the first store buildings still stands, across the street from the Library. The principal street of the original town was Main street. The present main street—Emma Avenue—is named for a stepdaughter of Joseph Holcomb, the first mayor after Springdale was incorporated. The Holcombe family also gave its name to Holcombe streeet.

Springdale had a number of early schools, including the Rev. J. A. Walden's school in 1868, the Missionary Baptist College in 1872, the Lutheran College, and Shinn's Academy. The present Central School grounds was the site of the early colleges.

In 1871 three church congregations combined to build a church to be used jointly. Lumber was hauled from the Van Winkle mill on War

Eagle and timbers for the framework were cut in nearby forests. This old building still stands. It contains an upstairs lodge hall, first used by the Masons and now by the Odd Fellows. The bell in the cupola is the original bell, said to have been secured by the Rev. John Holcombe from a Red River steamboat in south Arkansas. In the old days this church was the scene of the "May Meetings"—the foot-washings of the Primitive Baptists—an annual community celebration that drew large crowds.

When the town secured a postoffice in 1875, the name was changed from Shiloh to Springdale—for a large spring located just northeast of Shiloh Church.

In 1881 the railroad came and the business section gradually moved from the Square to its present location. Among Springdale's early industries were Caudle's brickyard, a tanyard, Haxton's woolen factory, and the Petross roller mill. The town was incorporated in 1878 and three years later had its first newspaper, the Springdale Enterprise.

Many of the pioneers who founded Springdale are buried in the Bluff cemetery, having been moved there from an earlier churchyard at Shiloh Church. Others sleep in Friendship cemetery, three miles east, or in Forest Park or in the Fitzgerald and other family graveyards. In the Bluff cemetery are the graves of the patriarch, John Holcombe, and such early Springdale names as Searcy, Lewis, Petross, Berry, Phillips, Gammel, Caudle, Gladden, and many more.

Cato Springs

The memorial bench pictured above is located at Cato Springs, on the Old Wire Road about three miles south of Fayetteville. The stone bench bears a bronze tablet with this inscription: "In memory of Co. K, 34th Arkansas Infantry, CSA. Erected by UDC—Prairie Grove Chapter 1006 and Mildred Lee Chapter 98." Co. K, commanded by Capt. T. J. Kelly of Cato Springs, was the first company organized in Fayetteville for the Confederate service. The 34th Regiment, commanded by Col. W. H. Brooks, was a noted Washington County regiment that became a part of Fagan's brigade and fought in the battle of Prairie Grove. Cato Springs was the scene of many Confederate reunions after the War.

Cato Springs is named for the Cato brothers, John Henry and Jacob, who homesteaded here in 1849. There were originally three large springs in the neighborhood, the best-known spring being on the adjoining Abraham Cox homestead. This was a favorite camping spot for troops during the War. Tradition has it that J. H. Cato was captured here in his home by the Feds in 1862 and later died in a northern prison.

Just a short distance from the springs was Rieff's Chapel, named for the pioneer John Rieff who came from Tennessee in 1835 and bought 20 acres from John McGarrah for $35. The chapel was destroyed by a cyclone but the Rieff cemetery is still there atop the hill. Here sleep several generations of the Rieff family, as well as Catos, Coxes, McCollums, Keslers, and others, including T. J. Kelly, who served in the 1st Arkansas Cavalry in the War with Mexico and in the 34th Arkansas Confederate Infantry in the War Between the States.

Maguiretown

Maguiretown, or Maguire's Store, to give it the official postoffice name is located on Highway 74 near the main branch of White River, about two miles north of Elkins.

The community got its start in the early 1830's when Owen Maguire and family came here from Kentucky. A school was established in 1832 and a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1834. The elder Maguires lived in a log house but their son, Hosea, built the handsome "big house" when he was married in 1850. He reared a large family. He became prosperous but saw his business wiped out by the Civil War. After the war he built the brick store building which still stands. Sylva Lodge, F&AM, occupied the upper floor. Several sessions of the White River congregation of the CP church in the 1850's were held at Maguiretown.

Besides the Maguires, there were other prominent men in this community in the 1860's. Dr. B. F. Williams, whose home still stands across the road from the store, was a noted physician, postmaster, and master of the lodge. John W. Meredith was an early teacher. Robert McCamy was the first judge of Washington County (1830-1832). Hosea Maguire was a member of the state legislature at the time of his death in 1888. After his passing the town gradually disintegrated, with the business, church and lodge moving to Elkins.

Maguiretown today is only a ghost of its former self, but the store building and the attractive old Maguire home still remain to give the casual visitor a faint idea of the gracious living of a century ago.

Fayetteville — Evergreen Cemetery

Fayetteville's beautiful Evergreen Cemetery, located just a block from the University campus, contains the graves of hundreds of men and women who made Washington County and Arkansas history.

Begun in the 1840's as the Thomas-Pulliam family burying ground, Evergreen was in 1871 deeded to the city by the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges. There are many older cemeteries in Washington County but none that surpasses Evergreen in charm and serenity and none that has gathered so many illustrious names in one small burying ground.

Here sleep soldiers and statesmen, University presidents and pioneer physicians. Here is the grave of Sophia Sawyer (1792-1854), who founded the Fayetteville Female Seminary in 1839, the forerunner of Arkansas College and the state university. Here is the grave of Archibald Yell (1797-1847), Governor, Congressman and hero of the War with Mexico. The picture above shows his monument.

In Evergreen are Lafayette Gregg, soldier and Supreme Court judge; William E. McIlroy, pioneer merchant and banker; Congressmen Gunter and Dinsmore; such pioneer doctors as Pollard, Paddock and Welch; three generations of Wilsons (Alfred M., Robert J., Allan M.), town mayors and state legislators; and University presidents Gates, Murfee, Buchanan, Tillman and Futrall.

Names that are important in Washington County history are numerous in Evergreen—Walker, Humphreys, Duke, Stone, Vandeventer, Eason, Leverett, Hunt, Harrison, Vincenheller, Botefuhr, Chandler, Gray, Gladson, Fulbright, VanWinkle, Byrnes, Davidson, and many more.

Fayetteville—National Cemetery

Fayetteville's National Cemetery is one of three in Arkansas, the others being at Fort Smith and Little Rock. The Fayetteville cemetery was established in 1867 as a burial place for the Union dead in the battles of northwest Arkansas. Later, Union veterans, as the final summons came to them, were buried here. Still later, veterans of the Spanish-American War, the two World Wars, and the Korean War were buried here.

This beautiful cemetery, maintained by the United States, occupies a landscaped knoll in the southern part of Fayetteville. In the center the national emblem flies from a tall flagpole. The graves are arranged in concentric rings, sloping away from the flagpole to the base of the hill. Each grave has a marble marker, most of which are inscribed "Unknown." Like most national cemeteries, the Fayetteville cemetery is surrounded by a brick wall and contains a caretaker's home. Memorial Day exercises are held here on every May 30.

There are eight bronze tablets in the cemetery, bearing Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, War Department General Orders No. 80, the Act of 1867 "to protect national cemeteries," and similar legends. Just inside the entrance gates is a bronze shield bearing this inscription: "United States National Cemetery—Fayetteville—Established 1867—Interments 1,975—Known 465—Unknown 1,510."

Graves of unknown soldiers in Fayetteville's National Cemetery

Fayetteville — Butterfield Stage

Fayetteville was a station on the famous Butterfield stage line—the Overland Mail—in the years just before the Civil War. Shown in the accompanying picture is the Butterfield monument that stands in front of the courthouse. It carries this inscription: "This tablet marks a part of the Butterfield stage route from St. Louis to San Francisco 1857-1860. Erected by Marion Chapter DAR and Major Brian Pendleton Chapter DAC."

The Butterfield line was said to have been the longest and best conducted stage and mail route in the world. The distance was 2,795 miles and service was twice weekly. The trip from St. Louis to San Francisco took 25 days and the fare was $200.

John Butterfield was manager of the Ozarks section of the route and lived in Fayetteville. The stables, capable of handling 18 horses, were first located where the Ozark Theater is and were later moved to the site of today's City Administration building. The Byrnside tavern across the street fed the overland travelers. The Butterfield stages from 1858 to 1860 brought many students of old Arkansas College to Fayetteville.

The arrival of the first stage from the east in September 1858 was greeted with much noise-making in Fayetteville. In Fort Smith, the arrival of the first stage from California (October 1858) was the occasion fora gala celebration, the Overland Mail ball. The Civil War ended the Butterfield stage line.

Fayetteville—"Bill Cush"

The bronze tablet shown on the accompanying picture is located at 15 South Duncan street, Fayetteville. It marks the home, still standing, built about 1847, by William Quesenbury, better known as "Bill Cush." He was a noted early-day editor, poet and artist. Also, he was a soldier, having served under Col. Archibald Yell in the War with Mexico and under Gen. Albert Pike in the Confederate army. "Bill Cush" was a versatile character. He was editor of the Southwest Independent in Fayetteville in 1850 and was probably Arkansas' first cartoonist. He taught painting in Cane Hill College and Miss Sawyer's Female Seminary.

Some years after Major Quesenbury's departure from Fayetteville, his house became the home of Gen. Daniel H. Hill, noted Confederate soldier who was president of the Arkansas Industrial University from 1877 to 1884. Like Quesenbury, Hill was an editor and a soldier. He was an officer in the Mexican war and a Brigadier General in the Confederate army. He is generally credited with having brought the University to state-wide attention.

The century-old Quesenbury house is well preserved. It merits a visit from all lovers of Arkansas history. The memorial marker on the lawn was placed there by former students of General Hill and the Mildred Lee chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The site of the Quesenbury house on Duncan street was the approximate location of a Confederate battery that shelled the town on October 3, 1864, when General Fagan made an attempt to drive out the Federal troops that occupied Fayetteville.

Fayetteville — Tebbetts House

This beautiful hundred-year-old home was built by Jonas M. Tebbetts, early financier and lawyer. He was a patron of the early schools, especially Arkansas College, which stood just south of the home pictured here. Reverend VanHorne's Fayetteville Female Institute stood just west of the Tebbetts house—at the northwest corner of College Avenue and Dickson Street.

When War came, Tebbetts, a Union sympathizer, fled north. In 1863 the Federals occupied Fayetteville and the Tebbetts home became headquarters of Col. M. LaRue Harrison, who commanded the post. Bullet holes, still visible in the door panels, were incurred during the battle of Fayetteville. A bronze marker on the corner tells the story: "This corner was the scene of hot fighting by Confederate troops under Brig. General W. L. Cabell and Federal Forces commanded by Col. M. LaRue Harrison on April 18, 1863."

So this lovely old home has seen the peaceful life of Arkansas College (1851-1861) and the activity of the girls' school across College Avenue. And it has witnessed the violence of War. Arkansas College was burned on the night of March 4, 1862. Van Horne's Institute, which was used as an arsenal, vanished in a fiery explosion. But the Tebbetts house, older and more beautiful with the passing of the years, sits serene in the shade of its century-old trees.

1412819

Fayetteville—Walker Cemetery

The Walker family burying ground on East Mountain, across the road from the Confederate cemetery, has been in use for 114 years. The monuments cover the years from the massive brick-and-stone burial vaults of a century ago to the granite tombstones of today.

Here lies David Walker, three times Supreme Court judge of Arkansas and chairman of the Secession Convention in 1861. He came to Fayetteville in 1830. His father, Jacob Wythe Walker (1778-1838), came shortly afterwards to head the Fayetteeville branch of the State Bank. Other Walkers buried here include Capt. John J. Walker and Capt. Jacob Wythe Walker, the latter killed in the battle of Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas. Five of the Walkers were Confederate soldiers. Four served as mayor of Fayetteville.

In the picture above, the tall shaft marks the grave of Judge David Walker. The granite monument in the foreground marks the grave of his daughter Mary and her husband, J. D. Walker, who was United States Senator. In this enclosure are also the remains of Rebecca Washington (1786-1861), kinswoman of the Walkers.

Surrounding the Walker family plot are the graves of many other Fayetteville pioneers, including Seneca Sutton, Washington Wilson, Katie Stirman, Benjamin Pegram, William A. Watson, George Rudolph, Jacob Purdy and George R. Buckner.

A visit to the Walker cemetery should include the fine old brick house a quarter mile east that was built by Judge David Walker and that was the home of Senator and Mrs. J. D. Walker.

Fayetteville — Confederate Cemetery

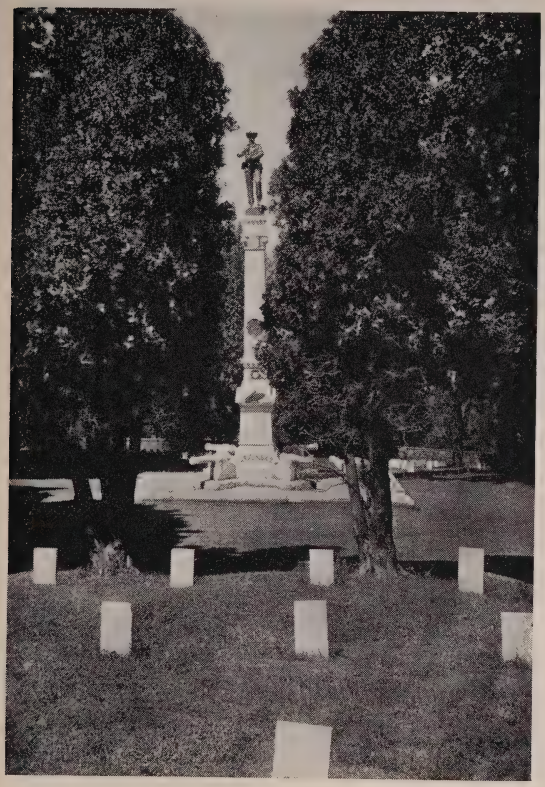
One of the most beautiful spots in Washington County is the Confederate cemetery on East Mountain in Fayetteville. Here are buried some 500 Confederate soldiers who died in the battles of northwest Arkansas, chiefly at Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge. Most of them are unknown. One of the few inscribed tombstones marks the burial place of General W. Y. Slack of Missouri, who was mortally wounded in the battle of Elkhorn.

The cemetery was the result of a meeting in 1872 of a group of Fayetteville women, who organized the Southern Memorial Association. They purchased this 3-acre plot and within a year had buried the remains of some 500 Confederate dead. In 1885 the stone wall was erected and later the attractive entrance gateway was built.

The women of the Southern Memorial Association next undertook a county-wide drive to erect a suitable monument. Sixteen designs for the memorial were submitted. The F. H. Venn company of Memphis produced the winning design and built the impressive shaft that stands in the center of the cemetery. It is pictured on the cover of this booklet. The monument was unveiled on June 10, 1897—the 25th anniversary of the S. M. A.—in the presence of the largest crowd ever gathered on East Mountain, including several hundred Confederate veterans. The memorial was unveiled by Mrs. T. J. Pollard, who a quarter century earlier had been the first president of the S. M. A.

Miss Rowena Gallaway has described the monument in these words: "In a Southland full of monuments dedicated to Confederate soldiers, this monument at Fayetteville is noteworthy for its appropriate design and excellent bas relief work. Each facade bears the name of the state whose grave section it fronts, and at the top is the seal of that commonwealth. The west, or Texas side, has crossed swords; the north, or Missouri side, the drum and fife; the south, or Louisiana facade, crossed sabres. On the east, the Arkansas side, a furled banner is background for the seal of the Confederacy. Time has not lessened the interest of the visitor in this impressive memorial."

Fayetteville's Confederate Cemetery is the scene each June of memorial exercises conducted under the auspices of the Daughters of the Confederacy. Each autumn the cemetery attracts visitors by the fiery display put on by hundreds of scarlet maples. But at any season of the year the cemetery will repay the visitor with a glimpse into the not-too-long-ago past when these unknown soldiers in Gray—from Louisiana, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas—fought and died in defense of the Southland.



On the Arkansas side of the monument are engraved these lines:

"These were men
Whom power could not corrupt,
Whom death could not terrify,
Whom defeat could not dishonor."

Fayetteville—University of Arkansas

The University of Arkansas, which crowns a hill in the western part of Fayetteville, was created by the legislature in 1871 as the Arkansas Industrial University. Classes began in January 1872 in a frame house that had been the McIlroy family home. "Old Main," one of Arkansas' best-known and best-loved landmarks, was begun in 1873 and completed in 1875. It was built from the blueprints of the University of Illinois' main building—even to the towers of unequal height and shape, one convex, one concave. It was built by a Fayetteville contractor, W. Zera Mayes, whose low bid was $123,855. The 2,600,000 bricks in Old Main were made from campus clay. Its 719,805 feet of lumber were hauled from Clifty Mills. The ornamental limestone was quarried in Madison County. There was no railroad within 150 miles of Fayetteville when Old Main was built. When finished, it was the tallest building in all Arkansas.

Dozens of other buildings have been erected on the campus since that early day, many of them named for men and women who devoted their lives to the University. Through its thousands of graduates, the influence of the University is felt throughout the world. The names of all alumni appear on the Senior Walk, which extends from Old Main to the campus entrance on Arkansas Avenue and back again. Senior Walk has a place in the hearts of the alumni and is an outstanding attraction for visitors.

The story of the University is partially told on the 17 tablets and markers that dot the campus. Inscribed in stone at the entrance of Old Main is this legend: "This University established under the Acts of Congress of July 2, 1862, and of the State Legislature of March 27, 1871. Appropriation by Washington County $100,000, and by the Town of Fayetteville $30,000."

There is a bronze plaque honoring the memory of the 29 students who made the supreme sacrifice in World War I. There is a tablet on the Chi Omega Greek Theater commemorating the founding of that national sorority on the Arkansas campus. And in the foyer of the Library is a bronze plaque that bears a bas relief portrait of President Futrall and this inscription: "John Clinton Futrall, President of the University 1913-1939. Professor of Latin and Greek 1894-1913. Dedicated by the Alumni 1940. His wisdom, devotion and patience created a greater university, respected throughout the nation. His honest and intelligent convictions inspired rare confidence and his fame and influence will long endure."

Besides its Senior Walk and Old Main, the University has other traditions and memories that stir the hearts of its sons and daughters — the Razorback, symbol of athletic prowess; the University hymn, "Alma Mater"; and the knowledge that fourteen governors of Arkansas and of other states were students in its classic halls.

Fayetteville—Masonic Hall

The first Masonic lodge in Arkansas to erect its own lodge hall was Washington Lodge No. 1 of Fayetteville. This 2-story building, erected about 1840, is still standing, at the corner of Block and Rock streets. It has been remodeled several times but has the original lines and timbers. A bronze marker on the corner bears this inscription: "Original site of Washington Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M. Given by Archibald Yell. Founded 1836."

Archibald Yell, Arkansas' first congressman and second governor, was a charter member of Washington Lodge No. 1 Other charter members were: Onesimus Evans, James McKissick, Matthew Leeper, Washington L. Wilson, Samuel Adams, Abram Whinnery, William McKnight Ball, W. S. Oldham, Robert Bedford and R. C. S. Brown.

Washington Lodge dates back to 1835, when a dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. Onesimus Evans, the first Worshipful Master, rode horseback to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1837 to receive the charter and jewels.

The roster of Masters of Washington Lodge No. 1 shows the names of many historic figures, among them J. H. VanHoose, J. M. Tebbetts, J. H. Stirman, Robert Graham, Reding Putman, O. C. Gray, W. B. Welch, James J. Vaulx, and others.

The old lodge hall was used for church and school purposes when Fayetteville was young. It was also used by Federal troops, probably as a commissary, and was one of the few public buildings that escaped destruction during the war.

Other Places of Interest

There are many other places of historic interest in Washington County besides those described in this booklet.

Persons interested in railroad lore will enjoy tracing the roadbed of the Pacific & Great Eastern Ry. from Fayetteville to Wyman and the Ozark & Cherokee Central Ry. to Westville. The Frisco tunnel at Winslow also has an interesting story.

There are many old mill sites in the county. The mill-races are easy to trace and in some places the dam and mill foundations can still be seen. One such mill site is the old Stelle mill (1836), south of Fayetteville.

Genealogical data can be found in some 80 old graveyards that dot the county—most of them over a century old. Some of the more interesting burial grounds—with names of some of the pioneer families buried there—are the following:

Thornsberry—Robinson, Burgess, Holland, Abercrombie, Perdue, Millard, Waters, Webster, Beaver.

Weddington—Carnahan, Thurman, Weddington, Hunton, Anglin, Yeager, England, Walker.

Summers—Elms, Little, Drake, Thomason, Estes, Price, Kirk, Shannon, Washington.

Sunset—Osborn, Skelton, Henson, Johnson, Dockery, Brown, Taylor, Winkle.

Woolsey—Hutchens, Pitkin, Woolsey, Ingram, Stonesifer, Caudle, Gilstrap.

King's (on Middle Fork)—Wood, Fletcher, Campbell, King, West, Page, Roberts, VanHoose, Fincher.

Friendship (near Springdale)—Graham, Atwood, Moneyhun, Ownbey, Henry, Davis, Hartley, Blakemore, Morris, Patton.

Baptist Ford (near Greenland)—Putman, Carlile, Brown, Stockburger, Farmer, Yates, Crider, Privett.

Gehring's Chapel—Cardwell, Stearns, Hewitt, Ellis, Bridenthal, Guisinger, Francisco, Banks.

Among the smaller towns that have old houses, churchyards, and memories of the past are Cincinnati (old Sylva), West Fork, Goshen, Farmington, Elkins, and Sulphur City (old Mankins). Tontitown, while only a half century old, has a story as romantic as many of the early settlements.

All of the places shown in this booklet are on good roads and easily accessible. The visitor who leaves the highways can find much unrecorded history in communities that were once on the stage routes but have been forgotten in the rush of Washington County's second century.

Washington County Historical Society

This booklet is published under the auspices of the Washington County Historical Society. This organization of public-spirited citizens seeks

— to preserve the traditions and relics of pioneer days;

— to tell our people about our county's romantic past;

— to keep alive the names of the men and women who made our county great;

— to inform tourists and visitors about our historic attractions.

To accomplish these purposes the Society

— publishes a journal of the county's historical lore;

— conducts pilgrimages to places of historic interest;

— holds program meetings and exhibits;

— sponsors historical essay contests in the schools;

— collects material of historical value.

For a sample copy of Flashback, address:

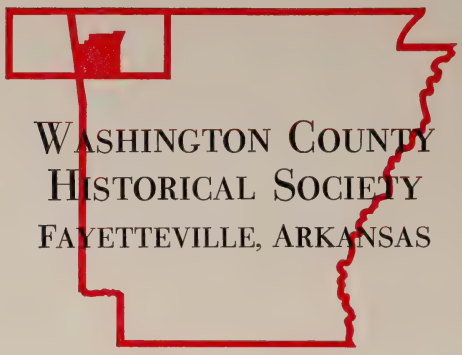
Washington County Historical Society,

Fayetteville, Arkansas.

1179

Lovely County in 1827

Washington County since 1828



WASHINGTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS